

READING INITIATIVE

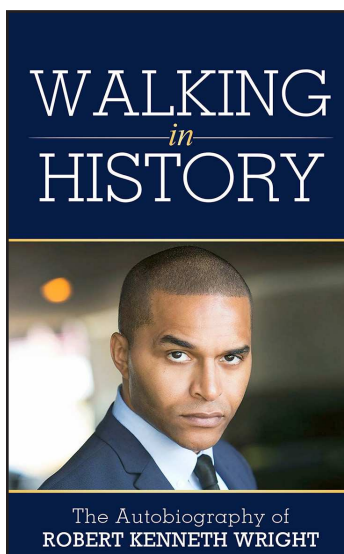


BATTLE OF the Books is a reading incentive program for students starting in third grade. Students read books and meet in groups to demonstrate abilities and test their knowledge of the books they have read. The competitions are similar to the television series Family Feud or Whiz Kidsstyle of competition. Fifth grade math teacher Connie Orozco introduced the idea she gleaned from previous experience with her son in Florida, where Battle of the Books is an annual state-wide competition. This is the third year Jack Hayes has utilized the concept to promote reading in fifth grade.

MONROE AUTHOR

ULM alum publishes autobiography

Robert Kenneth Wright, a ULM Graduate History Major, has recently published an autobiography. Wright graduated from ULM with a BA in History in December 2012. This fall, he will be in his final semester of graduate school for an MA in History.



Wright's book is entitled "Walking in History: An Autobiography." It is a life-and-times memoir of events of American and world history of which he not only studied but in which he also participated.

He's been a photographer, musician, Miss America pageant director, news reporter, school teacher, a United States Marine, and a Hollywood actor. The memoir begins with his childhood and ends when he reached the age of 40.

"When I graduated from ULM in 2012, the commencement speaker was La. State Representative Katrina Jackson. Her message to us was to go out and 'dance with time.' That's exactly what I did," Wright said.

He also attributes his adventurous pursuit to the legendary ULM history professor Dr. H.P. Jones. He said that Jones inspired him to become a History major.

"Dr. Jones was a one-of-a-kind professor. He made me appreciate history by telling stories. He would close his eyes and begin speaking as a griot with hundreds of years of history in his head," Wright said.

He said that Jones's two-year-voyage around the world on a bicycle story was very attractive and made him want to go on an adventure.

"He (Jones) would close his eyes and recite poetry. One poem, in particular, was that of Robert Frost, The Road Not Taken. Some-

times, Dr. Jones would tear up in the middle of recitation, evidence that he'd enjoyed a long journey in his life. That was sensational," Wright said.

Wright's book recalls his three years of undergraduate study at ULM as he began living in Madison Hall as a freshman.

He makes reflections on courses taken and the professors who taught them until his final year of struggle as a senior. He also reflects on meeting and having a conversation with UN Ambassador Andrew Young, when he made a visit to ULM earlier this year.

As a historian, Wright reflects on his tours of nine presidential libraries and his visits to the homes of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, and Madison in Virginia.

He refers to them as his walk in history.

"Some lessons can't be learned in a classroom. History has to be experienced in order to fully understand it," Wright said.

After 10 years of writing and editing, Wright's book is complete. There will be a book signing at the Starbucks on Forsythe Ave. in Monroe on Thursday, Aug. 2. Books are also available for purchase on Amazon.com.

COLUMN

Something Special with Martha Jane Anderson

May the Lord our God be with us... may He never leave us or forsake us, May He turn our hearts to Him, to want to walk in all His ways. 1 Kings 8: 57 & 58

Barbara Norris celebrated her birthday with Duplicate Bridge friends at the nearly perfect home of Loretta Rivers, her Duplicate Bridge partner. The food included pickled shrimp, 12 types of cheese and great crackers, fried chicken, artichoke hearts, crab, and Parmesan cheese dip, great Thurman birthday cake garnished with white hydrangeas, and cheese straws. The home and gardens are exceptional. Everything in the home has its exact place and is there. The French say, "One can see the soul of a person through their garden."

Speaking of great gardens, a must see is Linda and Terry Reeves' patio and plantings.

Well, considering the strength of the Supreme Court candidates, it appears that the president did well with appointing Judge Brent Kavanaugh to the high court. He and his family seem to be exemplary Americans.

July 4 was the birthday of Beau Box in Baton Rouge. His most special gift was a homemade caramel pie by mother in law, Annwood Jenkins.

Margaret Manning, Judge Wendell Manning and Ashley's daughter, is doing a great summer law internship with La. Supreme Court Justice Scott Creighton and Federal Court Justice Jay Zainey in New Orleans prior to returning to Notre Dame Law School.

Hannah Harris, Nancy King's pretty blonde daughter, is interning with attorney, Stacey Goff, prior to going to Tulane Law this fall.

Granddaughter, Ainsley Anderson Herlevic, was selected for recognition by the North La. Magazine, LOLA, with her business, AinsleyEvents, where she plans and implements weddings and special events like Miss USA in Shreveport.

One of the doctors Helena and Jay Altick daughters, Abi, is making a big name for herself at UCLA in tennis.

Caroline O'Neal, 6, was one of five from hundreds of submissions to win an international art contest with her drawing of Shirley, a 70-year-old elephant! Her mom, Jennifer Engsminger O'Neal, Carol and Bill Ledoux's granddaughter, has been a fabulous mom and reads to her daily, as well as dad, Justin O'Neal. They read the book on Shirley to Caroline when she was one-year-old.

The Revelries Band played a July 4th event at Lake Bruin and that included LSU Sigma Nu boys with Monroe connections: Beau Bailey, Mitchell Webb, John Lewis, and Hoyt Brignac of Lafayette!

My friend, Linda Taylor, traveled to Slovenia this summer and says it was great and so beautiful. She quoted the late Mark Twain when he said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts."

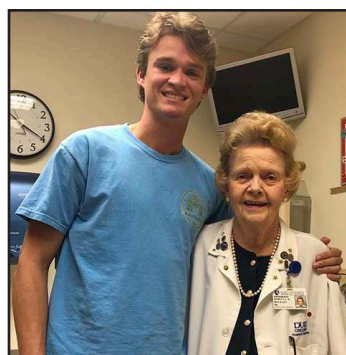
Be certain to see the "Images of Christ" that are currently being shown at the Biedenharn Museum and Gardens. Call (318) 387-5281 for reservations.

"Be strong in the Lord. Put on the whole armor of God. Think on these things: Whatever is honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, think on these things, and the peace of God which is beyond our understanding will be with you both now and forevermore."

Martha Jane



ABOVE: Keller Harbuck proposed to Elizabeth Butler, former LSU Tri Delta, at Ridgeleas Country Club Golf course in Fort Worth.



ABOVE: John Lewis with famous Duke Dr. Rebecca Buckley.



ABOVE: Dining Divas lunch at Warehouse No. 1: Annetta Hill, Evelyn Hahn, Ellen Huey, and Linda Taylor.



ABOVE: Anna Ruth and Stuart Hill, Ann and John McClendon celebrating at Loretta Rivers'.



ABOVE: Adorable Stella Ballard enjoying the fireworks in Monroe with parents, Katy and Travis Ballard.



ABOVE: Barbara Norris honored with birthday cake by Thurman at Loretta Rivers' fabulous La Louisiana home.

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